



**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3738**

*ZW*  
*AF*

Corres. and Mail  
**BOX AF**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
)  
Liu et al. ) Examiner  
) T. Barrett  
Serial No. 10/617,309 )  
)  
Filed July 10, 2003 ) Art Unit  
) 3738  
SPINAL IMPLANT METHOD AND )  
CUTTING TOOL PREPARATION )  
ACCESSORY FOR MOUNTING THE )  
IMPLANT )

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Monday, May 23, 2005  
(Date of Deposit)

**Christopher A. Brown**

Name of Registered Representative

Christopher A. Brown  
Signature

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO  
FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated March 22, 2005, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment and consideration of the accompanying remarks. The two-month period after the pending Office Action extended to Sunday, May 22, 2005, and this paper is being filed on the first business day thereafter. No extensions of time or additional fees are believed to be due for consideration of this paper. If any extensions or fees are deemed necessary, please provide such extensions of time and charge any such fees to Deposit Account 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.